

C O P Y

Mr. John I. Snyder, Director of Land Acquisition, Knoxville  
Allen J. Roulhac, Assistant Director of Land Acquisition, Decatur  
March 4, 1935

**Decentralization**

Refer to your memorandum of February 27th.

Complying with your request for comment on the plan submitted in your memorandum, I offer the following observations:

I think it would expedite the work of acquisition in both the Wheeler and Pickwick area to have auditors and disbursing officers assigned to the local offices.

I think the plan to have the central project office of the Pickwick area, and also central office for the transmission line unit at Nitrate, would be desirable.

In connection with the separation of the Wheeler Dam unit and the Pickwick unit, I wish to call your attention to the following facts:

The timber cruising for the Wheeler reservoir is completed. The appraisal work is about complete and should be entirely finished by April 1st. I understand that it is contemplated that the appraisal work on the Pickwick project will be commenced about April 1st, and that the buying of the land in the Pickwick reservoir will not commence before July or August. We have contracted for the purchase of 676 tracts in the Wheeler reservoir, the total land acquisition request being 913. All of the land in the Wheeler reservoir should be contracted for by July or August, except that part which will have to be condemned for one reason or another.

The title closers have closed 364 tracts of February 28th, and have sent in settlement certificates covering 436 tracts. If 20 to 25 tracts are closed each week from now on, most of the title closers' work in the Wheeler reservoir will have been completed by August 1st. There will be nothing left to close except tracts which will have to be condemned, either on account of defective titles or failure to reach an agreement for the purchase and sale with the land owner. As you know, the legal department is conducting the condemnation proceedings.

Will be glad to cooperate in carrying out any plan that may be adopted.

(Signed) Allen J. Roulhac

AJR-K